

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) A Method-method of treatment of an animal, comprising administering a therapeutic or diagnostic composition comprising particles of a polymer matrix into which is absorbed aqueous liquid, the particles having diameters in the range 40 to 4000 μm , characterized in that surfaces of the particles express a zwitterionic group, in which a composition according to claim 1 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis, wherein the diameters of the particles, when fully imbibed with water, are in the range 150 μm to 3000 μm .

52. (Currently Amended) The Method-method according to claim 51 in which the composition is administered to form an embolus.

53. (Currently Amended) Method-The method according to claim 52 in which the composition is administered for uterine fibroid embolisation, embolisationembolization, embolization of vessels around tumours or tumour-excision sites, embolisation-embolization of varicose veins or varicoceles, embolisation-embolization of arteriovenous malformations or venous malformations, hemostasis of gastro-intestinal bleeds, embolisation-embolization of fistulas or embolisation-embolization of fallopian tubes, or seminiferous tubes for sterilisation sterilization purposes.

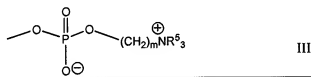
54-69. (Cancelled).

70. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 2 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~claim 51, wherein the polymer matrix is substantially non-biodegradable.

71. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 34 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~claim 51, wherein the composition is sterile.

72. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 35 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51, wherein the zwitterionic group comprises ammonium, phosphonium, or sulphonium and phosphate or phosphonate ester.

73. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 36 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51, wherein the zwitterionic group has general formula III

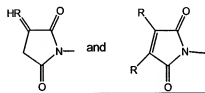


where the groups R⁵ are the same or different and each is hydrogen or C1-4 alkyl, and m is from 1 to 4.

74. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a composition according to claim 37 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51, wherein the zwitterionic groups are pendant groups on a polymer formed from ethylenically unsaturated monomers including a monomer of the general formula I

Y B X I

in which Y is an ethylenically unsaturated group selected from the group consisting of $H_2C=CR-$
 $CO-A-$, $H_2C=CR-C_6H_4-A^1-$, $H_2C=CR-CH_2A^2$, $R^2O-CO-CR=CR-CO-O$, $RCH=CH-CO-O-$,
 $RCH=C(COOR^2)CH_2-CO-O$,



A is -O- or NR^1 ;

A^1 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, $(CH_2)_4A^2$ and $(CH_2)_4SO_3-$ in which 1
is 1 to 12;

A^2 is selected from the group consisting of a bond, -O-, O-CO-, CO-O, CO- NR^1 -,
- NR^1 -CO, O-CO- NR^1 -, NR^1 -CO-O-;

R is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-4} alkyl or BX;

R^2 is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl;

B is a bond, or a straight branched alkanediyl, alkylene oxaalkylene, or alkylene
(oligooxalkylene) group, optionally containing one or more fluorine substituents;

X is the zwitterionic group.

75. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 38 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~74 in
which Y is $H_2C=CR-CO-A$.

76. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 47 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,

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wherein the particles, when imbibed with physiological saline at room temperature, have a water content of at least 30% by weight.

77. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method of treatment of an animal ~~in which a~~
~~composition according to claim 48 is administered to an animal for therapy or diagnosis~~51,
wherein the particles are substantially spherical.

78. (Cancelled).